

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-76 (canceled)

Claim 77 (currently amended): A method of screening for early stage prostate cancer, the method comprising a step of assaying, in a patient sample, an expression product of a human endogenous MMTV-like subgroup 2 (HML-2) retrovirus, wherein an increased level of said expression product of at least 150% relative to a control sample level of expression from cells that are not prostate tumor cells indicates that the patient should undergo further testing for the presence of prostate cancer, wherein the patient sample is a prostate or blood sample, wherein the expression product is an RNA comprising a Gag or Pol encoding sequence of the retrovirus, and wherein the HML-2 retrovirus is HERV-K(CH).

Claim 78 (previously presented): The method of claim 77 wherein the patient sample is a prostate sample.

Claim 79 (canceled)

Claim 80 (withdrawn): The method of claim 77 wherein the expression product is an RNA comprising a nucleotide sequence corresponding to the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:155.

Claim 81 (withdrawn): The method of claim 80 wherein the expression product is an RNA comprising a nucleotide sequence corresponding to the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5.

Claim 82 (withdrawn): The method of claim 80 wherein the nucleotide sequence corresponding to the DNA sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:155 is at the 5' end of the RNA.

Claim 83 (currently amended): The method of claim 77 wherein the expression product is an RNA ~~corresponding to the Gag or comprising a Pol-domain encoding sequence~~ of HERV-K(CH).

Claim 84 (currently amended): The method of claim 83 wherein the expression product is an RNA comprising a nucleotide sequence corresponding to a DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:26 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 17-26.

Claim 85-113 (canceled)

Claim 114 (previously presented): The method of claim 78 wherein the step of assaying is preceded by a step of enriching RNA in the prostate sample.

Claim 115 (previously presented): The method of claim 77 wherein the expression product is detected using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Strand Displacement Amplification (SDA), Self Sustaining Sequence Replication (SSSR), Ligase Chain Reaction (LCR), Transcription Mediated Amplification (TMA) or Nucleic Acid Sequence Based Amplification (NASBA).

Claim 116 (previously presented): The method of claim 115 wherein the PCR is Reverse-Transcription PCR (RT-PCR).

Claim 117 (new): The method of claim 77 wherein the expression product is an RNA comprising a Gag encoding sequence of HERV-K(CH).

Claim 118 (new): The method of claim 83 wherein the expression product is an RNA comprising a nucleotide sequence corresponding to a DNA sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 14-16.